

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 3 December 2025

Present: Cllrs: R Noble, C Connock, R Woodhouse, K Sumner, T Moulder, L Roberts, O Powell [Part], A Wynn [Part].

In Attendance: 16 members of the public present, Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Question regarding abandoned vehicle and Parish Council response. Chair said it would be discussed.
- Heras fencing on disputed land. Clerk to ascertain whether it is contravening planning.

118. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN - Cllr Hall - away from parish. Cllr Powell would be leaving the meeting after the co-option vote - childcare.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllr Hall and his reason for absence. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved with abstentions from Cllrs Noble, Sumner, Connock, Moulder, Roberts & Powell.

119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

120. DISPENSATIONS

- a. No dispensations requested.

121. ELECTION / CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

- a. Somerset Council has given notice that an election was not called for the Casual Vacancy that became open through the resignation of Tom Hollings.
- b. Three candidates put themselves forward for co-option to council. Each candidate spoke to the meeting giving an overview of their background and reasons for wishing to become a member of Pilton Parish Council. Cllrs were asked to propose each candidate to be put to the vote for co-option. Candidate A was proposed by Cllr Noble, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Candidate B was proposed by Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Roberts. Candidate C did not receive a proposal. Candidate C withdrew. Voting for Candidate B was taken first. She received 4 votes. Cllr Angela Wynn was welcomed to Pilton Parish Council after signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

[Cllr Powell left the meeting]

122. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 5 November 2025. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved,

123. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Somerset Council - Cllr Sully - Noted
- b. Local Government Boundary Commission - Consultation re-opened. Closing 14 January 2026 <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset> deferred.
- c. Somerset Council Consultation - Charitable Collection Licencing Policy - on how to standardise house-to-house charitable collection regulation across Somerset. Closes 23 January

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<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/charitable-collection-licensing-policy/> was not considered by Council

124. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Chair gave thanks to Gill Pettitt who is retiring as Clerk and RFO to Council.

125. **APPOINTMENTS**

a. Vice Chair

RESOLVED: That Cllr Woodhouse be appointed as Vice Chair to Pilton Parish Council. Proposed Cllr Noble, 2nd Cllr Connock. Approved.

b. Internal Review Officer

RESOLVED: That Cllr Roberts be appointed as the Internal Review Officer. Proposed Cllr Connock, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved with one abstention, Cllr Noble.

c. Affordable Housing Triad

RESOLVED: That Cllr Wynn be appointed to the Affordable Housing Triad. Proposed Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

d. Highways Triad

RESOLVED: That Cllr Roberts be appointed to the Highways Triad. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

126. **PLANNING AND LICENCING**

To consider the Planning Applications below and any that arise before the meeting.
[2025/2116/TCA](#) - T1- Norway Spruce - Reduce height by approx. 3m to reduce wind loading on canopy. T2 & T3 - Crack Willow - Remove infected growth & reduce to a height of approx. 2.5m from ground level. T4 - Hazel - Coppice at approx. 2m from ground level. Noted.

[2025/1942/HSE](#) - Proposed alterations to the planning approval 2025/1036/HSE. Demolition and rebuilding of the single extension. Demolition of entrance porch. Removal of chimney stack. Alteration of first floor window. Construction of new walled garden. Rebuilding boundary wall. New lean to green house.

RESOLVED: To support 2025/1942/HSE with reference to the last Council response. Proposed Cllr Connock, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved with two abstentions, Cllrs Noble and Woodhouse.

[2025/1660/HSE](#) - Proposed single storey extension (amended plans received) 05.11.2025. A member of the public spoke in favour of the application.

Cllr Noble proposed to object to application 2025/1660/HSE. Vote not taken.

RESOLVED: To support application 2025/1660/HSE Material Consideration 3 - improved visual amenity and 4 - improved layout & density of building. Proposed Cllr Moulder 2nd Cllr Approved with two abstentions, Cllrs Noble and Wynn.

127. **DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY**

a. To consider the recent defacement of a private property in Pilton and to approve any actions arising. A member of the public spoke on the issue - she handed council photographs of the defacement covering the front of the property, using aerosol spray paint and bitumastic paint. Most of the graffiti has now been removed. The police, Cllr Sully and Tessa Munt MP have been informed. The owners now have concerns about their own personal safety. Reaction from parishioners was very supportive, the graffiti sent a shockwave around the village, where there is a palpable feeling of concern and vulnerability. Cllr Sumner has investigated local ring doorbell footage and contacted the Local Community Police Inspector who was supportive, and fuller response is awaited, and said she would organise police representation at a future Council meeting. However, police support has otherwise been minimal. Council was thanked for the piece in the December Roundabout.

Noted that there is a history of stone / food throwing and other property damage locally.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Sumner represent the Council to Avon & Somerset Police.

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To facilitate a CCTV / ring doorbell video share scheme to aid identifying culprits of crime to be reviewed at next meeting, to encourage reviving Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

128. PILTON COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

- a. To note information received on setting up a Pilton Community Car Scheme. To be brought to January Full Council for full consideration. Noted.

129. COUNCIL MEETING DATES

- a. **RESOLVED:** To hold future Council meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

130. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS /TRIADS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

- a. Affordable Housing Triad - Survey closes 7th December. Full report will be received in March. Roughly 25% of households have responded so far.
- b. Biodiversity Triad - no report. The group has formerly been serviced by the Clerk - enquiry whether this would continue. Regarding administration of the WhatsApp Biodiversity group, the Clerk said it would be best to let the new Clerk settle in when it will become clearer how she manages her time.
- c. Burial Ground Triad - Refurbishment of the bench on the central reservation should be completed in early January. Cllrs Noble and Woodhouse will assist with the siting of the new bench, probably with paving slabs beneath - will report to January meeting. Cllr Noble has spoken with a contractor to move spare stone in the burial ground. Clerk to email him to ensure that he is aware that it is contaminated waste.
- d. Flooding Triad - no report.
- e. Footpaths Working Group - there has been complications regarding permission to site the new footpath. The LCN does not have the power to approve new footpaths.
RESOLVED: That Cllr Sumner ask Cllr Sully to represent Pilton Parish Council's request to Somerset Council for permission for a new footpath. Proposed Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.
- f. Highways Triad - Concern expressed at the continued speed of traffic in Top Street despite 20mph limit. East Town Lane grass verge is gouged out by large vehicles. Cllr Sumner will ask GFEL to move the SID to East Town Lane. Noted that 10 dead ash trees on Somerset Council land need felling between Midsomer Farm and top of Neat Lane. Clerk to inform Highways.
- g. Parish Plan Steering Group - now disbanded - remove from future agendas.
- h. LCN update - no report

131. NOTICEBOARDS

- a. To receive update on noticeboard research. No report.

132. REMEMBRANCE DAY

- a. The wreath laying went well apart from a Co-op lorry blocking road at St Mary's Lane causing one vehicle to attempt to drive up the one-way Shop Lane onto the A361, suggestion that a marshal be placed there next year. Traffic at Westholme to be stopped further back by Highways crew.

133. FINANCE

- a. Pilton Art Society Grant application - representatives presented the application. They thanked Pilton Walks for their support and through participation with that group the idea arose to create a similar organisation for the Arts. It is associated with the National Association for Decorative and Fine Arts Society (The Arts Society). The group have built up web, piltonartsociety.org and social media presence to bring people to Pilton and stimulate interest in the arts. Local artists have agreed to come to give talks and demonstrations to the group monthly at the Village Hall and trips to local venues. The grant would be to subsidise the

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first year's growth whilst membership fees built up income and support website costs. In following years it should be self-funding.

RESOLVED: To defer consideration of the Pilton Art Society Grant application to January working with the clerk to complete the application form and advise reapplication in April. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

- b. To note response from the Roundabout re questions pertaining to their grant approval. "We have received a donation from Croscombe Frolics at a similar level to the council. We have not yet been advised of the outcome from the Pilton Show. I understand that decision is not until later in Nov." Noted.
- c. **RESOLVED:** To approve the revised budget 25/26. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.
- d. Budget 2026/2027 - Noted that there is a proposed 7% increase. Figures are still to be finalised. Cllr Woodhouse suggested meeting again in December to approve.
- e. **RESOLVED:** To note payments & receipts listed. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Roberts. Approved.

134. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the press and public from items 135 and 136.

135. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

- a. Three candidates were interviewed. All candidates came across well. One CiLCA qualified candidate was recommended to Council by the Staffing Triad.

RESOLVED: To appoint Helen Richardson to the post of Pilton Parish Council Clerk. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

- b. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Helen Richardson to the post of Pilton Parish Council Responsible Finance Officer. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.

136. NOTICEBOARDS QUOTES

- a. None received.

137. MATTERS OF REPORT

- a. Noted that some gullies have been gulped in Neat Lane, Lower Street and W Compton. Clerk to request list of those cleared so the Parish Council does not duplicate the works.
- b. Cllr Woodhouse reported that the Pilton Youth Football Club grant had been made to a personal account. This is counter to Council policy, which requires that grants are paid to an incorporated body or dedicated bank account. The payment will be accounted for under S137 and the recipient, (Cllr O Powell) will provide evidence of the transfer of the monies to an approved account. Clerk will write to Cllr Powell explaining the process and Council's requirements.
- c. Roundabout - Cllr Sumner will write - call for Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, welcome to Cllr Wynn, and to Helen Richardson. Wishing parishioners a Happy New Year.
- d. Cllr Connock asked Councillors to save toilet roll inners for the school seed growing project.

NEXT MEETINGS: Council Meeting - 17 December 2025, 7 January 2026, 21 January 2026